

Announcements

Congregational Meeting: Part 1

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation, Part 1, has been called for Sunday, January 7, 2018, following the 11:00 a.m. service, for the purpose of electing officers of the church and hearing the results of the CAT survey.

Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Celebration Service and MLK Peace Expo Resource Fair

Please come to, "Dr. Martin L. King: His Voice, His Teachings, His Love For Humanity," a commemorative service for Dr. King on **Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.** hosted by NYAPC and sponsored by the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington and the Council of Churches of Greater Washington. Enjoy an afternoon of keynote speaker, Dr. Ben Chavis, a distinguished leader of the civil rights movement, sharing reflections, as well as interfaith expressions, music by gospel singer Wyomme Pariss and musical selections by the World Children's Choir.

4th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Day of Service

We will get to know each other with ice-breakers, reflect on the legacy of Dr. King with a short worship service, make and serve excellent lunches for those experiencing homelessness and those participating in the service project, clean up and sort the clothing closet for our guests, and engage with members of the community. Middle and High School Youth Groups with Youth Leaders, any youth from NYAPC, Upper Elementary Youth from NYAPC with a parent/guardian, NYAPC Community Club Students and NYAPC Members and Radcliffe Room guests are welcome to join us! Please email Alice Tewell (Associate Pastor) alice.tewell@nyapc.org, preferably before January 8. You may call/text with additional questions 202-805-3720.

Thinking about Joining New York Avenue Church? If you have been visiting us and like what you've experienced, please plan to attend our next New Members Class on **Saturday, January 27, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** There you can explore what it means to be a member of our faith community and decide whether this might be the place where you worship and live out your faith in the world. Please call Paul Dornan at 202.414.7999 if you are interested -- or just show up. You will be welcomed!

Sunday, January 7, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, January 15, 9:30 a.m.

Opportunities for Service

7-2-9 Club – Enjoy a Wednesday evening (yes, from 7 to 9 p.m.), September through June, with guests recovering from mental illness. There are games, entertainment, refreshments and time for making friends. Contact Spence Gibbins, spencergib@aol.com

Community Club – Washington D.C.'s oldest tutoring and mentorship program for public and charter school students needs adult volunteers to make a difference in a child's life. Students and volunteers meet at the church on Thursday nights during the school year. Please contact Tom Karr or Shamika Bradley at directors@communityclub.org or go to www.communityclub.org for more information.

New York Avenue Education Foundation – The NYAF mission is to be a catalyst of educational advancement for youth in need throughout the Washington, D.C. community. Annually, it solicits proposals and awards grants to grassroots nonprofits, including Community Club, to further impact D.C. students. Contact Brian Schimming, nyavefoundation@gmail.com to learn more. Shopping at Amazon? Be sure to select the NYAF as your charity-of-choice at www.smile.amazon.com. Every purchase helps a child in need.

Food for the Hungry – Non-perishable food donations are needed by the Capital Area Food Bank, the large nonprofit hunger and nutrition education resource in the Washington area. Please place your donations in the baskets located at the rear of the Sanctuary or at the front desk.

Radcliffe Room Ministry – Come join our homeless guests, Sundays, 8:15-9:45 a.m., for hymn singing, refreshments and socializing. Donations of umbrellas, rain gear, clothing, toiletries, and transportation money are needed. Contact Eleanor Robins, robinsleanor@hotmail.com

The Peace Candle – Visitors are invited to take a Peace Candle home to their congregations. Candles are at the back, right side, of the sanctuary. Please sign the note card there, so we may know who you are. For more information about the Peace and Justice Committee activities, contact Marilyn Seiber, mjs1wan2@gmail.com.

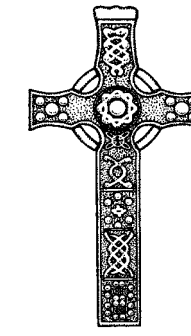
Triangle Park Committee – Working with the National Park Service to ensure maintenance and oversee the flower and plant beds along the church wall, we meet 4-6 times a year, conduct business via email, and schedule work days as needed. Contact Marilyn Seiber, mjs1wan2@gmail.com or Barry Tindall, barrytindall@verizon.net.

NYAPC's Young Adults – For more information about Faith on Tap, Bible Study, other fellowship and service activities, or to be added to the e-mail list, contact Helen Anthony (shanthon@ncsu.edu) or Taylor Allison (taylorallison93@gmail.com).

NYAPC Parent's Listserve – For more information about ministry for infants to high schoolers, or to be added to the email list, contact Associate Pastor Alice Tewell (alice.tewell@nyapc.org).

Annual Stewardship - Each of the ministries described on this page, as well as everything else that happens at this church, is supported in a significant way by Annual Stewardship giving. Annual Stewardship is the act of making a financial pledge to the church operating budget for a year and completing that pledge. It is a deep personal and congregational theological act, and it is essential to the worship, community, and mission of this church! Members, affiliates, and friends are all invited to participate in Annual Stewardship. Please contact Lance Jameson, the church book keeper, Rachel Browning and Kim Johnson, the chair of the Annual Stewardship Committee, or Rev. Roger Gench, the Senior Pastor, for more information, questions, or to make your pledge.

We are in need of volunteers to help make NYAPC a welcoming place for our visitors and members by staffing the welcome table in the narthex, 20-30 minutes before a Sunday service greeting and then 15-20 minutes after, to chat with visitors and members during coffee time. For more details, visit <http://bit.ly/1OFP6or>. If you are interested in signing up for one (or more!) services, please contact Helen Anthony at shanthon@ncsu.edu or Paul Dornan at pbdornanp@aol.com.



Celebration of Worship

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church welcomes all people into community, worship, service and leadership.

Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24, 2017

5:30 p.m.

The worship service begins with a brief period for personal meditation and the Prelude.

Incarinate God, we worship You this Holy Night.

We think of the babe in arms, gripping Mary's finger tight, without words and without explanation. We remember that we were all once babes, and that we will forever be

Your beloved children held in Your eternal love. Amen.

Prelude "Greensleeves"
Ralph Vaughan Williams
Mary Anderson, Flute

Introit "Away in a Manger"
Forest Green

***The Lighting of Advent Candles:** Lenora Thierry; Joe, Melissa,
The Christ Candle Lighters Julia and Joseph Thierry

Call to Worship

Leader: There are five candles in our ring. In expectation of this Holy day, we have lit one each week of Advent. These candles connect us with generations who have come long before us. These are the candles that bring us together as we seek to be in relationship with one another. These candles shine reminding us of God's light that shines in the darkness.

All: Living Christ, light of the world, give us the warmth of Your love.

Leader: We lit the first candle for Hope as a prayer in our suffering world, that God may be revealed to all.

All: Living God, come into our world this Holy night.

Leader: We lit the second candle for Peace to celebrate the promise of the prophets: "Comfort my people, bring comfort to them, says Your God." "Love and faithfulness will come together. Justice and peace will embrace."

All: Living God, come into our world this Holy night.

Leader: We lit the third candle for Joy, the joy of a people waiting for the Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, Savior and Lord to us all.

All: Living God, come into our world this Holy night.

Leader: We lit the fourth candle as a sign of God's abounding Love, shining in the world through people past and present.

All: Living God, come into our world this Holy night.

Leader: Tonight, in a world full of violence and despair, in a world that prays for the coming of peace, on this Holy night we light the Christ Candle to celebrate Jesus Christ, God incarnate, God who is with us. We light the Christ candle thankful that God has come to us, not as a conquering hero but as a child, whose faithful, peaceful life will follow God's way of Love.

All: Living God, come to our world. May the love of Christ shine brightly, at the center of our lives, spreading warmth and light, in us, in this church and everywhere. Amen.

**Please stand if able*



Ministers: **The Congregation**
Pastor: **Roger Joseph Gench, Ph.D.**
rfgench@mindspring.com
Associate Pastor: **Alice Rose Tewell, M. Div.**
alice.tewell@nyapc.org
Director of Music: **Stanley P. Engebretson, D.M.A.**
Parish Associates: **Beth Braxton, M. Div., MRE, D. Min.**
revbeth.braxton@gmail.com
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Frances Taylor Gench, M. Div., Ph.D.
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Parish Associate for Visitation: **Ann Rose Davie, M. Div.**
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Director of Liturgical Dance: **Kathryn Sparks, M.T.S.**
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Young Adult Volunteer: **Clare Forrister**
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The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

"An inclusive, justice-seeking church"

1313 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005

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***Carol** #133, "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
Adeste Fideles

Prayer of Confession

Jesus Christ, holy child, glory of God revealed, You are the hope of the world, the song of the angels, the treasure of our hearts, and the glory of God among us. Yet, we have not followed Your ways, clinging to the glories of the present age: worldly possessions, pursuits and power. By Your Spirit, redeem us, cleanse us, and help us to shine with the brightness of Your truth and share the warmth of Your great love, so that all may believe, rejoice, and give thanks, for You are the light of the world. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

***Response**

#145, (verse 1) "What Child is This"
Greensleeves

- 1 **What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

First Lesson *Responsive Reading from Isaiah 9* **Rev. Beth Braxton**

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness- on them has the light shined.

All: You have multiplied the nation, You have increased its joy; they rejoice before You as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

Leader: For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor You have broken as on the day of Midian.

All: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Leader: His authority shall grow continually and there shall be endless peace.

All: He will establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time forth forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Carol** #114, "Away in a Manger"
Mueller

Time with Children and Their Friends

Anthem "Still, Still, Still"
Traditional German

Second Lesson

Luke 2:1-14, pages 54-55, NRSV

***Carol** #134, (verses 1-2) "Joy to the World"
Antioch

Third Lesson

Luke 2:15-20, page 55, NRSV

Meditation

Rev. Roger J. Gench

***Carol** #121, (verses 1-3) "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
St. Louis

The Offering

Offertory 'Pastorale' from the "Christmas" Concerto
Archangelo Corelli

***Response** #121, (verse 4) "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
St. Louis

- 4 **O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!**

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of all, whose mercy is from everlasting to everlasting, all that we have are gifts of Your grace. As the heavenly host sang of Your glories, accept these gifts as offerings of praise, in hope of new life through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Lighting of the Christmas Candles**

A pastor will begin by lighting a candle from the Christ candle of the Advent wreath and then light the candle of the nearest person. Pass the light on to those next to you. Candles will remain lit through the end of the service. Please place your candle in the baskets provided at the doors as you exit the sanctuary after the Benediction.

***Carol** #122 (verses 1-3) "Silent Night, Holy Night"
Stille Nacht

- 1 **Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**
- 2 **Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!"**
- 3 **Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

*** Benediction and Sending**

***Liturgy for tonight's service** is adapted from "Advent Christmas and Epiphany Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship" by Brian Wren, 2008 and written by your pastors.

Thank You

We wish to thank Rev. Beth Braxton and Mary Anderson for their participation in worship this evening.

Information for Visitors

We extend a warm welcome to visitors! We invite you to sign the guest book at the rear of the Sanctuary.

Christmas Joy envelopes are available in the pews. Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

When bulletins are waved during worship at NYAPC, it is a sign of appreciation for the music or other contribution to the service. It is an action which we learned from our partner church, the First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana, as an alternative to clapping. For the wavers, it is an expression of joy in the moment and our connections with sisters and brothers in faith.

If you have been worshipping regularly at NYAPC and do not yet have a permanent nametag or have somehow mislaid your permanent nametag, please fill out a blank form with your name in the envelopes on either of the nametag kiosks in the narthex and the church entryway on the first floor. You will find your permanent nametag on one of the kiosks on one of the next two Sundays. Nametags are just one more way New York Avenue strives to be a welcoming presence in Washington!

You are invited to join us for worship on Sundays! On December 31, we will hold one service at 10:00 a.m. Adult, children and youth educations resumes when we return to our regular schedule with worship services at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. on January 7. Professional child care is available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

